



CLARK COUNTY RESIDENTIAL DOSA DRUG COURT

OUTCOME EVALUATION SUMMARY



JUNE 2021

BACKGROUND

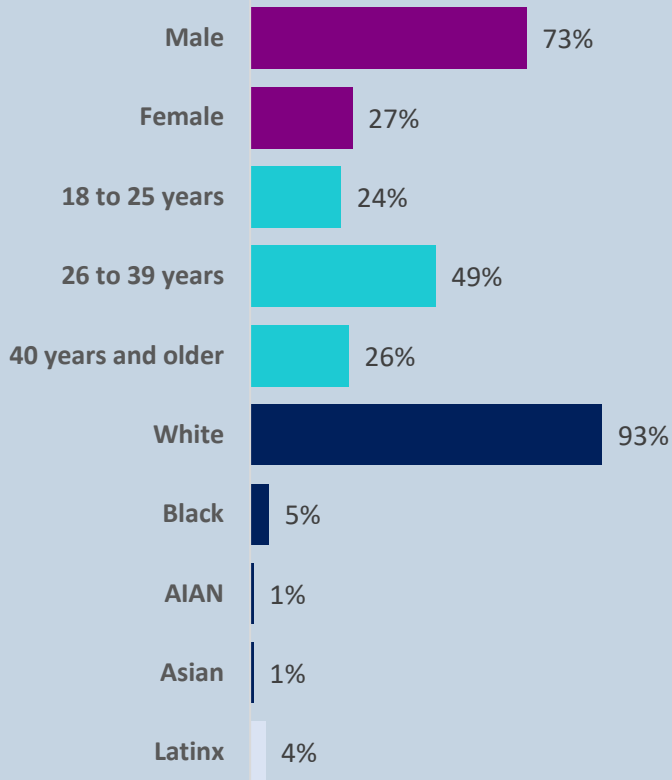
In 2009, Clark County Superior Court expanded their existing adult drug court with a separate track called the Clark County Residential Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (DOSA) Drug Court Program (hereafter, referred to as CCRDDC). The goals of the CCRDDC are similar to the goals of the adult drug court program and include reducing criminal recidivism, increasing public safety, and providing treatment and other recovery support services to justice involved individuals with substance use disorders and their families to promote long-term recovery.

In October 2017, Clark County contracted with NPC Research to perform process and outcome evaluations of their program. This report presents results from the outcome evaluation which reviews the extent to which CCRDDC is impacting outcomes regarding criminal recidivism, especially in comparison to DOSA dockets in other jurisdictions in the State of Washington.



WHO DOES THE PROGRAM SERVE?

Most participants are white males in their thirties



CCRDDC served over 300 individuals

- 311 participants entered CCRDDC between 2009 and 2019
- 118 successfully completed the program

More than half of CCRDDC participants did not successfully complete

Just 43% of participants who entered between 2009-2017 successfully graduated the program.*

There is no discernible trend over time. Graduation rates may be fluctuating due to changes in program practices or services over time (e.g., if there was turnover in treatment providers or other team members from year to year), or due to outside influences, including changes in the criminal justice system or population, or availability of services and resources in the community.

*Graduation rate allows for at least two years post entry to complete the program and only includes those who successfully or unsuccessfully completed; those who were still active or transferred were excluded from calculation of the graduation rate.



ARE THERE FACTORS THAT PREDICT SUCCESS IN THE PROGRAM?

Time in program may be connected to challenges with DOSA probation requirements

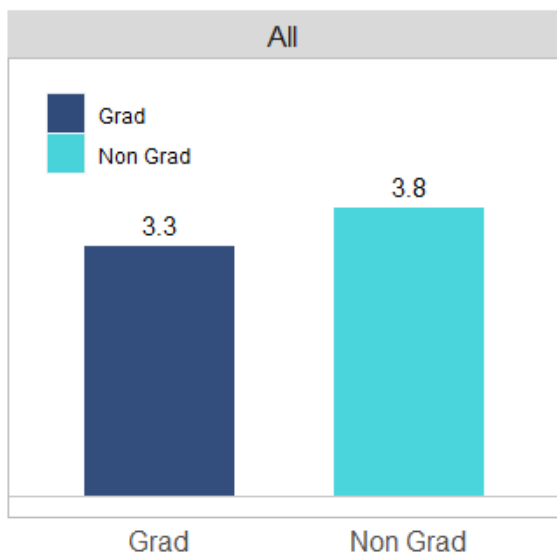
Graduates stayed in the program for a median 24 months compared to only 9 months for non-graduates. Due to the regulations around DOSA cases, those who complete the CCRDDC early must stay on probation for the remaining time up to 24 months. Those who are unsuccessful in the DOSA program must serve the remainder of their sentence in confinement rather than on probation. This requirement explains why graduates spend much more time in the program and in the community on probation than non-graduates.

Graduates spend twice as long in the program

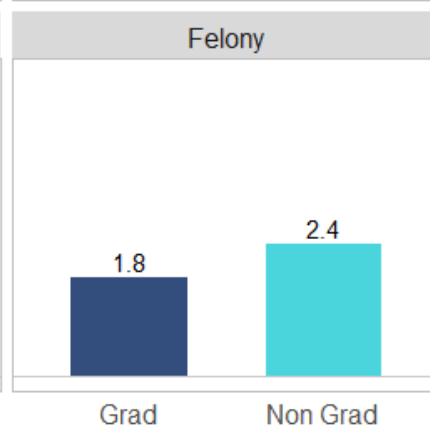
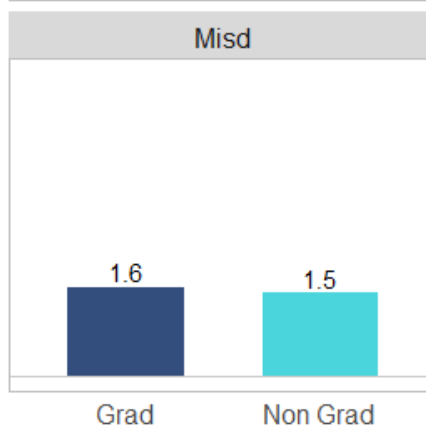
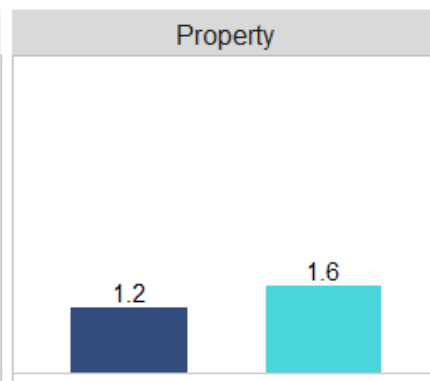
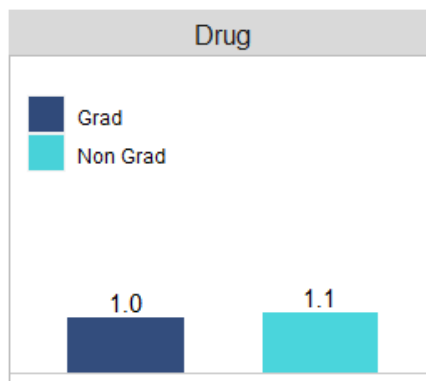
Graduates	
Median	711 days
Shortest stay	406 days
Longest stay	1414 days
Non-Graduates	
Median	287 days
Shortest stay	21 days
Longest stay	1722 days

Graduates enter the program with fewer prior arrests

The participants in CCRDDC had, on average, 3.5 rearrests in the two years prior to program entry. Of the charges attached to those arrests, drug and property were most common. There are notable differences in criminal history between graduates and non-graduates. Non-graduates averaged half an arrest more than their graduate counterparts. Non-graduates had significantly more felony charges, indicating they are possibly a higher risk population than those who are able to successfully complete the program.



Participants have similar misdemeanor and drug related histories, but graduates have fewer felony and property-related charges



COMPARISON GROUPS ANSWER: HOW EFFECTIVE IS CCRDDC RELATIVE TO OTHER DOSA DOCKETS?

Other Enhanced DOSA Programs

Like Clark County, Snohomish and Spokane Counties offer additional resources to individuals with a DOSA sentence such as pre-court staffings (Snohomish), court sessions (Spokane), regular review of DOSA participants (both), and the use of incentives and sanctions to promote behavior change (both). This comparison group from the enhanced DOSA counties is used to answer the question: Are Clark County's DOSA enhancements more effective than other enhanced DOSAs?

Traditional DOSA

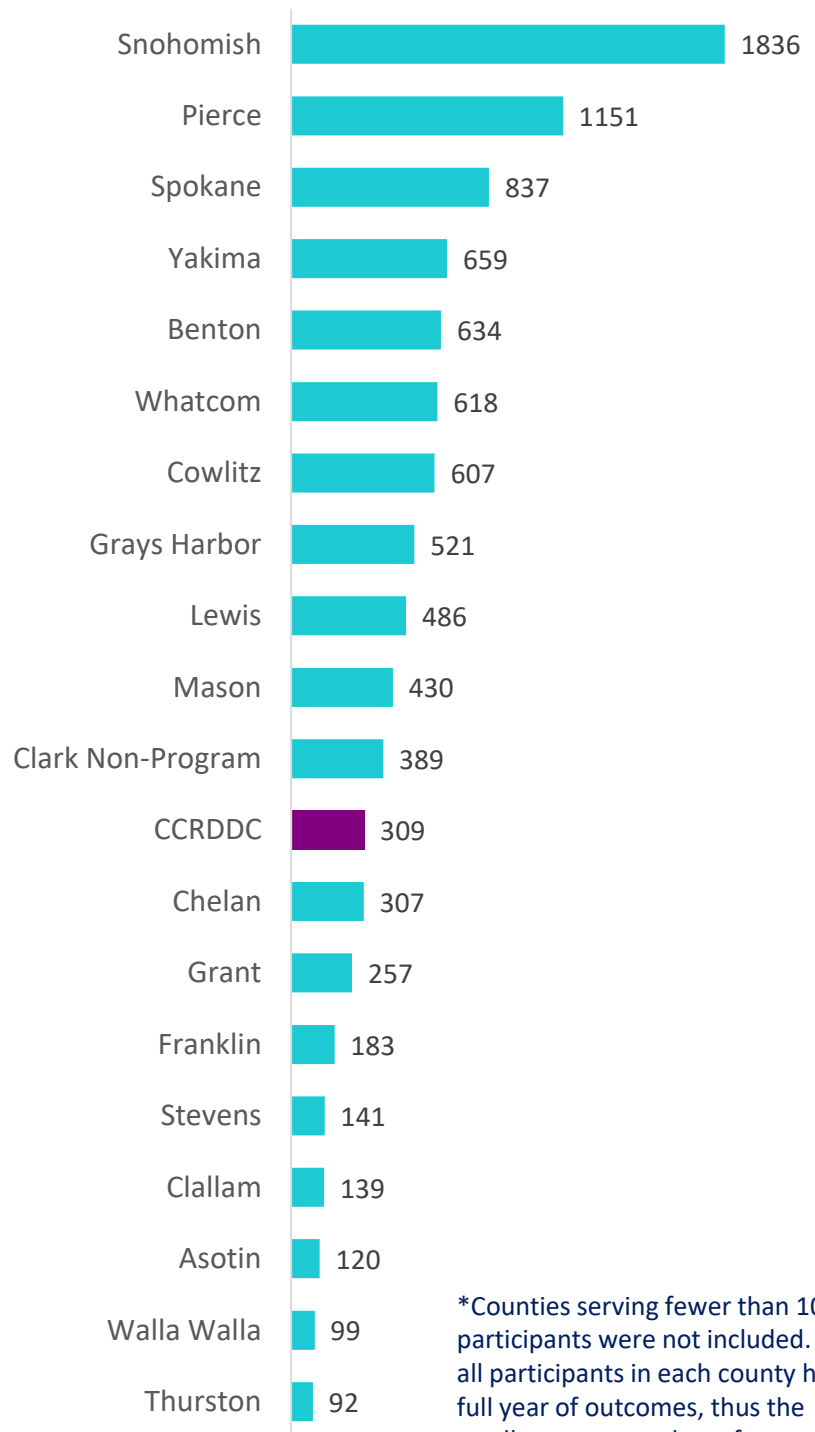
This comparison group was pulled from individuals in all jurisdictions with traditional DOSA sentencing (no enhanced docket and no specialized treatment court program). This comparison group is used to answer the question: Are Clark County's DOSA enhancements more effective than traditional DOSAs?

County Level

While the previous comparison groups looked at enhanced DOSA dockets or traditional DOSA sentencing in aggregate, this comparison group was constructed to examine individual county level differences* and is used to answer the question: Are Clark County's DOSA enhancements more effective than other individual jurisdictions in the State of Washington?

Those individuals within Clark County Non-program are likely Prison-Based DOSA recipients. However, data for Clark (and all other counties) did not differentiate between type of DOSA sentence. Counties vary in population and were controlled for using statistical modeling.

County level sub-groups have sufficient sample size by location



*Counties serving fewer than 100 participants were not included. Not all participants in each county had a full year of outcomes, thus the smallest programs have fewer than 100 participants with available recidivism.

DOES PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM REDUCE RECIDIVISM?

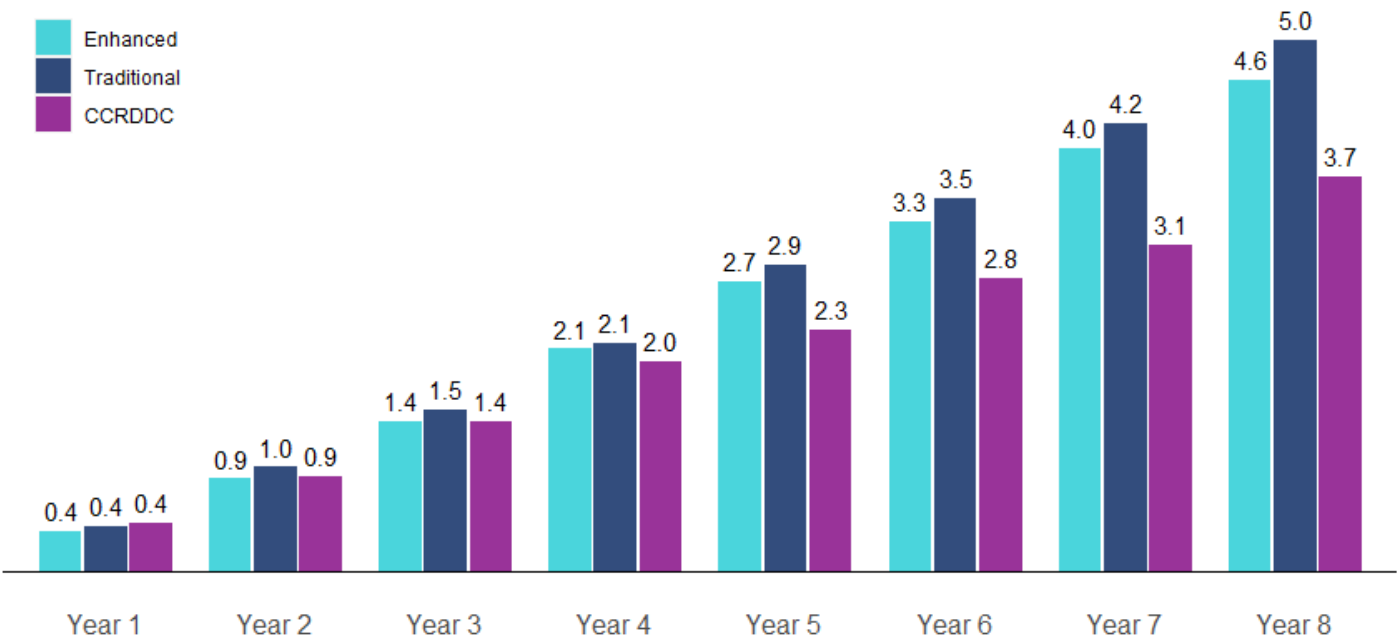
COMPARED TO ENHANCED DOSA DOCKETS AND TRADITIONAL DOSA SENTENCING

After 4 Years, CCRDDC participants have significantly fewer rearrests than other DOSA options

Up to four years post program entry, participants in CCRDDC, enhanced DOSA, and traditional DOSA have similar cumulative re-arrests averages (around 2 arrests at 4 years). After 4 years, however, CCRDDC diverges considerably showing far fewer re-arrests than the other groups. In fact, at eight years post entry CCRDDC averages close to 1 fewer re-arrest than both enhanced and traditional dockets, or a 20 to 25% reduction in recidivism, respectively.

Incarceration and prison-based DOSA: Future evaluation opportunities

CCRDDC participants are more successful at avoiding new arrests, especially long term when other jurisdictions start to see large increases in the number of re-arrests. It is possible that release from prison accounts for the divergence in recidivism between CCRDDC individuals and other groups at year 5 and beyond. Offenders with DOSA sentences who do not make satisfactory progress in treatment or who violate associated conditions may be sentenced to complete their full prison term. Individuals who are incarcerated are clearly unable to reengage in criminal activity until they have been released from their prison terms. Studying the impact of incarceration and prison-based DOSA sentences on recidivism are opportunities to be considered in future evaluation of outcomes associated with DOSA sentences.



CCRDDC participants have far fewer re-arrests after 4 years post entry

DOES PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM REDUCE RECIDIVISM?

COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

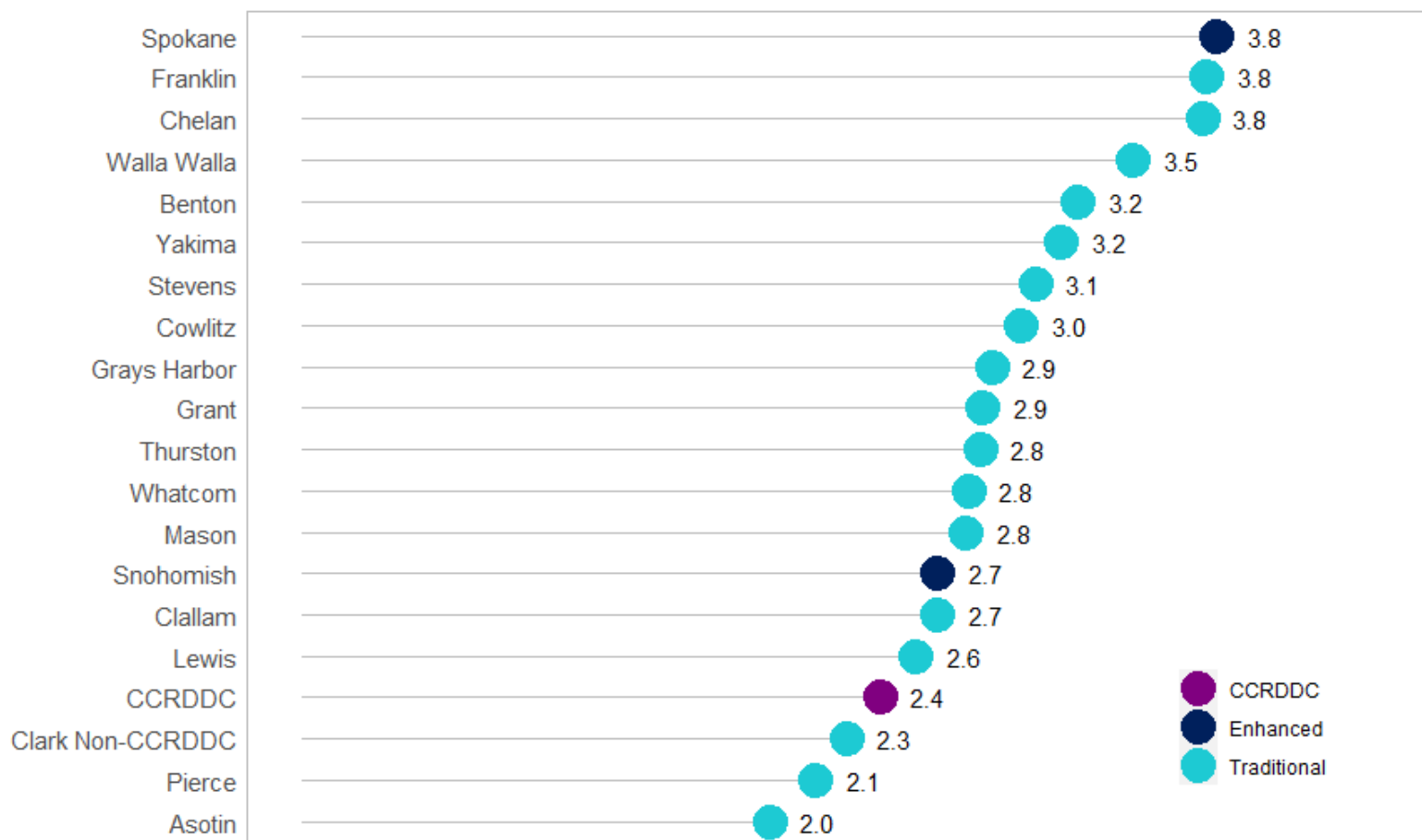
CCRDDC is one of the most effective DOSA programs in the state

CCRDDC participants have fewer re-arrests, on average, than individuals from other Washington State DOSA programs. Even after controlling for race, sex, age, and criminal history, CCRDDC still shows markedly lower average rearrest rates. At 5 years post program entry, CCRDDC participants average one-third fewer rearrests than offenders with DOSA sentences in counties with the highest recidivism (i.e., Spokane, Franklin, and Chelan counties).

Interestingly, CCRDDC performs better than both other Enhanced DOSA dockets, Spokane and Snohomish, but similar to Clark Non-CCRDDC. This suggests that Clark county may have other services above and beyond the CCRDDC program, or that even those who do not enter the program are benefitting from county agencies and services that have already been put into place.

While it is difficult to draw definitive conclusions from lower recidivism rates in CCRDDC relative to both other Enhanced DOSA dockets, and especially lower rates than Spokane, recidivism rates are likely associated with risk levels and the ability of the DOSA programs to effectively address and reduce risk via treatment and services.

CCRDDC averages much lower recidivism rates than other jurisdictions, even after controlling for criminal history and demographics





For questions about this report or project, please contact
Marny Rivera at rivera@npcresearch.com

WWW.NPCRESEARCH.COM